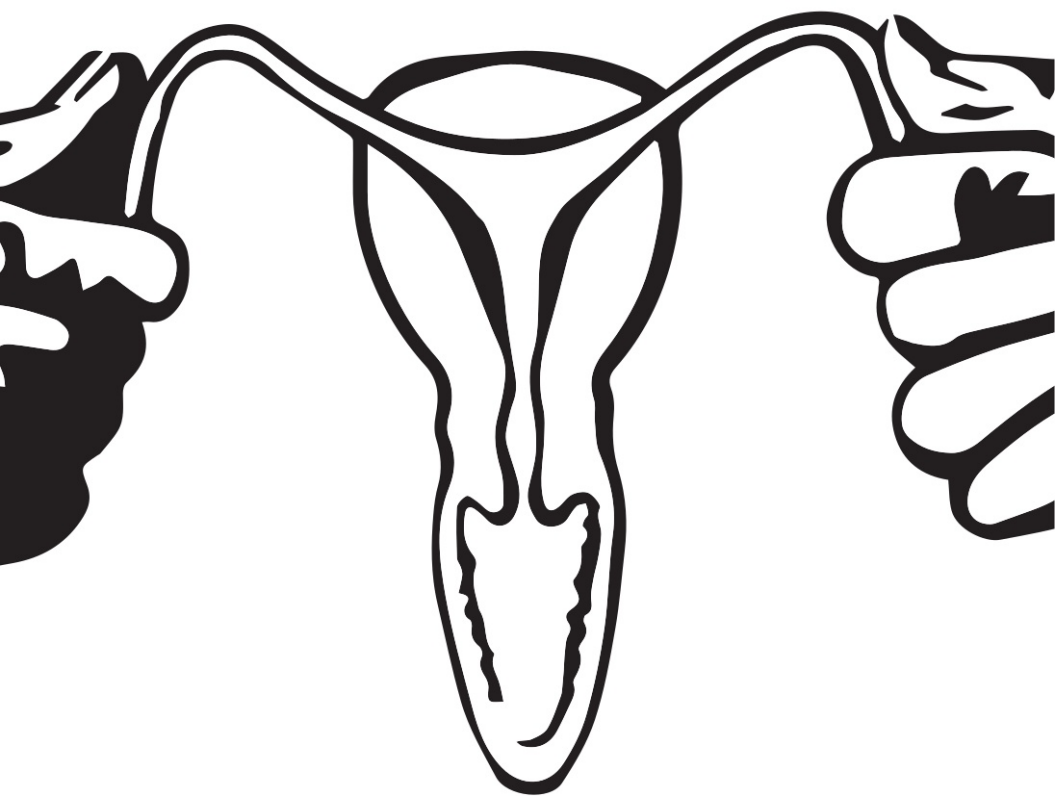


ABORT THE COURT



Originally created in the summer of 2022.

Last updated in the fall of 2022.

To download and distribute pdfs of a single-page screen reader view or a printable 2-page imposed view, please visit:

archive.org/details/AbortTheCourtZine

or try one of the following QR codes:



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If you need access to an abortion NOW:

Abortion Care Network



I Need An A



ProChoice.org Find Provider



If you want to donate or need access to an abortion fund:

AbortionFunds.org



Apiary.org Find Local PSO



If you want to donate or need access to legal assistance:

Repro Legal Defense Fund



Repro Legal Help Line



For more info on abortions and abortion options:

These 3 links all contain the same information, but we've made multiples in case one goes down.

They contain all the links above and more, as well as a lot more information and context.



Abortion is healthcare, bodily autonomy, *a basic human right.*

Before the recent supreme court decision overturning Roe v. Wade, the right to access abortion care was guaranteed in every state in the so-called United States - some made it very hard to access, but no state was allowed to prevent access entirely. Now they can.

Criminalizing abortion will not stop abortions, it will only make it harder for people to obtain safe abortions. Rich people will always be able to travel to other states or even other countries to get abortions - the legal consequences and physical dangers of criminalized abortion will disproportionately fall on the poor, the marginalized, the disenfranchised, and people of color.

Abortions are at least 10 times safer¹ and can be over 50 times safer² than giving birth (see page 11 for citations).

In some places, Black women are over 100 times more likely to die during childbirth than as a result of having an abortion.³

Forced birth is racist, class warfare, *an abomination.*

Forced birth is considered torture by the United Nations⁴ and, in some contexts, a war crime or a crime against humanity by the International Criminal Court.⁵



Police: “The ones who beat Rodney King, who gunned down Sean Bell and Amadou Diallo and Oscar Grant, who choked Eric Garner and George Floyd, who murdered Fred Hampton and Breonna Taylor in their beds. The ones who broke Víctor Jara’s hands and Steve Biko’s skull, who disappeared dissidents from

Argentina to Zaire, who served Josef Stalin. The ones who enforced Apartheid in South Africa and segregation in the United States. The ones who interrogated Black Panthers and Catholic Workers, who maintained records on 16 million people in East Germany, who track us through surveillance cameras and phone taps. The ones firing tear gas and rubber bullets whenever a demonstration gets out of hand, who back the bosses in every strike. The ones who stand between every hungry person and the grocery shelves stocked with food, between every homeless person and the buildings standing empty, between every immigrant and her family.”

-Crimethinc

Cops are the shock troops of an oppressive state apparatus, but they’re granted legitimacy through the illusion of an unbiased criminal justice system that is presided over by judges. It is the judge’s job to create and maintain a facade of equality in the way laws are enforced - despite the fact that the so-called United States hosts 25% of the world’s prison population but only 2% of the world’s total population and Black people are 5 times more likely to be incarcerated⁶; fewer than 1 in 100 cops ever face any consequences for killing suspects or innocent bystanders⁷; and judges are notorious for unfair sentencing based on everything from predictable factors such as the defendant’s race⁸ to less obvious ones such as the time of day the trial takes place.⁹

Anti-police sentiment is growing (as it should!), but we must

also recognize the crucial role that judges play in upholding the fatally flawed and deeply unjust carceral state.

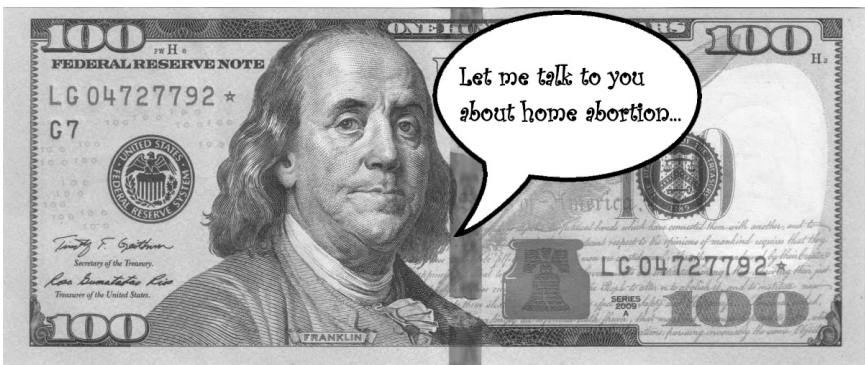
Providing more funding to police won't help, nor will providing judges with more power. Who do you think enforces laws that criminalize abortion? Not just cops - judges are equally culpable.



"The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision."

The supreme court's decision to overturn Roe is based on faulty premises and an alternate, purely fictional version of history. The judicial opinion is centered around a rigid version of constitutional literalism - it contends that the only rights that are protected are those that are either a) specifically spelled out in the constitution, or b) "deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition."^{10, 11}

The fact that SCOTUS's version of "our Nation's history and tradition" begins with white settler colonialism and completely ignores any and all previous history and tradition in the so-called United States is pathetic but unsurprising.



However, that isn't the only history they're ignoring and rewriting. Abortions were a common cultural practice during the colonial period in the so-called United States - so common, in fact, that Benjamin Franklin published multiple books in the 1700s that contained instructions on how to perform DIY at-home abortions.¹²

The supreme court's ruling striking down Roe is an incredibly dangerous and ominous precedent for SCOTUS to set. It allows the implementation of an informal theocratic rule - the court will be able to overturn virtually any law they want by engaging in rank, vulgar historical revisionism. Many laws could be overturned without any revisionism: people of the same sex didn't get married in the 1700s. Following that logic further, desegregated schools, interracial marriage, and voters' rights laws are all unconstitutional - no rewriting of history is even necessary!

When Brett Kavanaugh was appointed and confirmed to the supreme court, there was a great deal of discussion about the "legitimacy" of his position. While his history of sexual assault allegations is certainly troubling to say the least, using those allegations as the primary reason to challenge his legitimacy is assuming that the role of the court, and the role of the judges on it, has inherent legitimacy to begin with.

If Kavanaugh is illegitimate due to sexual assault allegations, what about Clarence Thomas? (And what does that say about Joe Biden, given the pivotal role he played in getting Thomas confirmed despite Anita Hill's allegations?) Is Amy Coney Barrett somehow more qualified to strip the right to bodily autonomy from hundreds of millions of people simply due to the lack of sexual assault allegations against her?

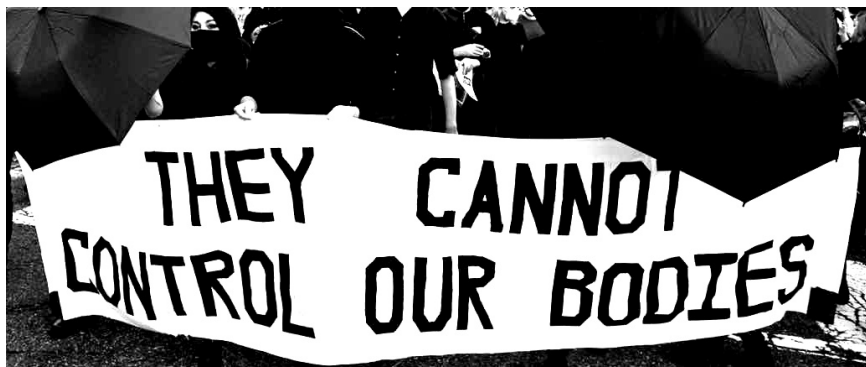
Or is the entire premise of the supreme court, along with the

rest of the criminal justice system in the so-called United States, irrevocably flawed? Is it possible that no one, regardless of their personal history or expertise, should ever be given such power over the autonomy of others?

The existence of judges is tied to the existence of policing. Every single thing a judge says is a police order, backed up by the threat of state violence. What the supreme court did was order the police to impose their moral will on others. Right now lots of people are very justifiably upset that they don't have control over this one very specific aspect of their lives. But this lack of control is not unique to abortion - every single law does the same thing.

The entire existence of the state and our existence as citizens within it means that our existence is mediated through that form. We don't get the *choice* to be included within the terrain of policing - we are included in that terrain and we can't escape it. On that level alone, the existence of policing fundamentally prevents us from having the very autonomy that people are demanding right now. For the better part of 50 years, liberal activists have pushed abortion activism into ballot boxes and courtrooms and very little progress was made because it's an inherent contradiction to argue that the state shouldn't impose its will on others in a courtroom, an arm of the state whose sole purpose is to impose its will on others. Why should we continue down such a failed path that completely disempowers participants?

We reject the idea that judges or politicians deserve sovereignty over the most intimate spheres of our lives. Rather than solely trying to pressure leaders in a system that reduces us to spectators, we propose direct action: taking power back into our own hands by enacting our needs and solving our problems ourselves.



(Note: additional information re: medicated and herbal abortions, ME, and more can be found at the links on p. 3 labeled "For more info on abortions and abortion options.")

The majority of abortions nowadays don't require a medical procedure, or even necessarily a visit to a doctor. They simply require medication that can be taken at home (and is available over the counter in many countries): misoprostol, which is roughly 85% effective at inducing a miscarriage, or mifepristone (aka RU-486) in combination with misoprostol, which are more than 95% effective at inducing a miscarriage. They are both prescription medications in the so-called United States, but it is possible in some states to purchase them before you become pregnant, to have on hand just in case.

It is also possible (though perhaps not legal depending on where you live) to obtain misoprostol through other means. It can be obtained as a veterinary medication and pressed into the appropriate type of tablet. The Four Thieves Vinegar Collective is also currently working on a version that's been put on blotter paper in a manner similar to LSD, which is just as effective and makes it much easier to handle and transport.

(It's important to note that you cannot swallow misoprostol like you would most medications - it must be held in the mouth for a certain amount of time to properly absorb.)

CW: this paragraph contains graphic medical descriptions.

The most common medical-procedure abortion method is vacuum aspiration, which involves dilating the cervix, inserting a flexible medical tube, and using suction to remove the fetal tissue. It is possible (though unsafe if performed by someone inexperienced, as well as of questionable legality) to use a technique known as menstrual extraction, or ME, to perform a similar procedure at home. ME is **intended** to extract the entire menses at once via suction (rather than bleeding throughout the duration of one's period) by dilating the cervix and inserting a flexible medical tube. ME is a very involved process - even when used to simply extract menses, it should only be performed under the supervision of someone who is experienced with the technique, but there are groups that teach ME workshops if gaining that skill is of interest.

Herbal abortions can be very dangerous if done incorrectly or hurriedly - it's best to learn about herbal abortion options through personal connections (ask a friend's grandmother!) but if you want to also do some reading, try the book "Natural Liberty: Rediscovering Self Induced Abortion Methods" and the zine "Herbal Abortion: A Woman's DIY Guide" - you can find PDFs online, or look through the links on page 3.

When institutions fail us and attack us, all we have is each other. We need to step up and create the capacity to support ourselves as well as our communities. We need to remember that there are currently people locked in cages because a doctor or nurse decided the way that person lost their pregnancy was suspicious - people's lives have been and will continue to be destroyed by this, but our collective action (and inaction) can make a massive difference in the number of lives and the amount of destruction. If all we have is each other, we need to make sure that's enough. It can be. Let's do everything in our power to be certain that it is.

Citations

1: Abortion Safer Than Giving Birth: Study by Geneva Pittman



2: The New Jane Crow by Michele Goodwin



3: The Maternal Mortality Consequences of Losing Abortion Access by Amanda Jane Stevenson et al



4: Denial of Abortion is "Torture" Says United Nations Report by Catherine Livingston



5: Forced Pregnancy: A Commentary on the Crime In International Criminal Law



6: US Prison Population By Race



7: The Racial Makeup of America's Prisons by Adriana Rezal



8: Judicial Politics and Sentencing Decisions by Alma Cohen and Crystal Yang



9: Extraneous Factors in Judicial Sentencing by Shai Danzier and Jonathan Levav



10: Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization by SCOTUS



11: The End of Roe v. Wade, Explained by Ian Millhiser



12: Ben Franklin Put an Abortion Recipe in His Math Textbook by Molly Farrel



